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5 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Research and Development, OSA

SUBJECT : Provision of Sleeping Bags and Other  
Survival Items for the IDEALIST Program

1. It is requested that the following survival equipment, or modifications of equipment, developed specifically for the OXCART program be incorporated into the IDEALIST life support system:

a. Walk around sleeping bags. These are life or death items during the winter months in many areas in the U.S. and in China, Korea, Tibet, and the Himalayan Highlands, as well as other areas of possible future deployment. These are packed in the OXCART seat cushion. Because of the slight stature of [redacted] (whose seat kits are now raised on two-inch blocks to position them properly in the cockpit) a similar installation could be provided for them with little difficulty.

[redacted] He feels the installation would be quite simple and could be accomplished speedily. It would be extremely valuable if he could be given the opportunity to measure the [redacted]

[redacted] Because of cockpit space limitations, provision of sleeping bags for [redacted] will be more difficult but definitely within the capabilities of [redacted] as demonstrated by installations they are now making for B-57 seat kits.

NRO review(s) completed.

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b. Inflatable rucksack. This is a simple modification of the rucksack now used in the IDEALIST kits, which is extremely important for water survival. Improved shoulder straps should also be included.

c. Modified kit lanyard for automatic or manual life raft inflation. Another simple modification giving the pilot the option of not inflating his raft if descending over timbered areas where the raft's hang up could be disastrous.

2. Because of the vital life saving importance we attribute to these items we urge that they be provided for the IDEALIST pilots with the least possible delay.

Deputy for Operations, OSA

INTEL/O/OSA (16 Mar 67)

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